Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a monitored computer under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on said monitored computer;

(b) providing in said client application a blacklist database of inappropriate words which associates a rating for each inappropriate word in said blacklist database, wherein said inappropriate words are words that are illicit and said rating is indicative of the extent to which each inappropriate word in said blacklist database is illicit;

(c) providing in said client application a search module formed of data processing executable instructions which receives text as an input, and which compares said text to said blacklist database in order to generate an appropriateness rating for said text, said appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which said text is illicit;

(d) providing in said client application a capture module formed of data processing executable instructions which captures at least all incoming text;

(e) utilizing said capture module to capture in real time said incoming text as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(f) automatically passing said digital content from said capture module to said search module in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(g) utilizing said search module and said blacklist database in order to examine all textual components of said digital content on a word-by-word basis and to develop an overall appropriateness rating for each individual piece of digital content in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content, said overall appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which each individual piece of digital content is illicit; and

(h) utilizing said client application for recording and reporting said overall appropriateness rating in a predetermined manner; and

(i) wherein recording said overall appropriateness rating comprises storing said overall appropriateness rating in memory on the monitored computer. on a computer-readable medium.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a monitored computer under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on said monitored computer;

(b) providing in said client application a blacklist database of inappropriate words which associates a rating for each inappropriate word in said blacklist database, wherein said inappropriate words are words that are illicit and said rating is indicative of the extent to which each inappropriate word in said blacklist database is illicit;

(c) providing in said client application a search module formed of data processing executable instructions which receives text as an input, and which compares said text to said blacklist database in order to generate an appropriateness rating for said text, said appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which said text is illicit;

(d) providing in said client application a capture module formed of data processing executable instructions which captures all network traffic at a TDI layer;

(e) utilizing said capture module to capture in real time said digital content of said network traffic at said TDI layer as said-monitored user accesses said digital content;

(f) automatically passing said digital content from said capture module to said search module in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(g) utilizing said search module and said blacklist database in order to examine all textual components of said digital content on a word-by-word basis and to develop an overall appropriateness rating for each individual piece of digital content in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content, said overall appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which each individual piece of digital content is illicit; and

(h) utilizing said client application for recording and reporting said overall appropriateness rating in a predetermined manner; and

(i) wherein recording said overall appropriateness rating comprises storing said overall appropriateness rating on a computer-readable medium in memory on the monitored computer.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of internet content received at a monitored computer under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

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(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on said monitored computer;

(b) providing in said client application a blacklist database of inappropriate words which associates a rating for each inappropriate word in said blacklist database, wherein said inappropriate words are words that are illicit and said rating is indicative of the extent to which each inappropriate word in said blacklist database is illicit;

(c) providing in said client application a search module formed of data processing executable instructions which receives text as an input, and which compares said text to said blacklist database in order to generate an appropriateness rating for said text, said appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which said text is illicit;

(d) providing in said client application a capture module formed of data processing executable instructions which captures all internet content;

(e) utilizing said capture module to capture all text from internet pages as said monitored user accesses said internet pages;

(f) automatically passing captured text from said capture module to said search module;

(g) utilizing said search module and said blacklist database in order to examine all textual components of said digital content on a word-by-word basis and to develop an overall appropriateness rating for each individual internet page, said overall appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which each individual internet page is illicit; and

(h) utilizing said client application for recording and reporting said overall appropriateness rating in a predetermined manner; and

(i) wherein recording said overall appropriateness rating comprises storing said overall appropriateness rating in memory on the monitored computer. on a computer-readable medium.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a monitored computer under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on said monitored computer;

(b) providing in said client application a blacklist database of (i) inappropriate single words and (ii) inappropriate phrases composed of a multiple number of words located proximate

to one another, wherein said inappropriate single words are single words that are illicit and said inappropriate phrases are phrases that are illicit;

(c) wherein said blacklist database associates a rating for each inappropriate single word and each inappropriate phrase in said blacklist database, said rating being indicative of the extent to which each word or phrase is illicit;

(d) providing in said client application a search module formed of data processing executable instructions which receives text as an input, and which compares said text to said blacklist database in order to generate an appropriateness rating for said text, said appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which said text is illicit;

(e) wherein said search module includes at least one routine for recognizing and rating inappropriate phrases;

(f) providing in said client application a capture module formed of data processing executable instructions which captures network traffic;

(g) utilizing said capture module to capture all said digital content of said network traffic;

(h) automatically passing said digital content from said capture module to said search module;

(i) utilizing said search module and said blacklist database in order to examine all textual components of said digital content on a word-by-word basis and to develop an overall appropriateness rating for each individual piece of digital content, said overall appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which each individual piece of digital content is illicit; and

(j) utilizing said client application for recording and reporting said overall appropriateness rating in a predetermined manner; and

(k) wherein recording said overall appropriateness rating comprises storing said overall appropriateness rating in memory on the monitored computer. ~~on a computer-readable medium.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a plurality of monitored computers each under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on each of said monitored computers;

(b) providing in said client application a blacklist database of inappropriate words which associates a rating for each inappropriate word in said blacklist database, wherein said inappropriate words are words that are illicit and said rating is indicative of the extent to which each inappropriate word in said blacklist database is illicit;

(c) providing in said client application a search module formed of data processing executable instructions which receives text as an input, and which compares said text to said blacklist database in order to generate an appropriateness rating for said text, said appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which said text is illicit;

(d) providing in said client application a capture module formed of data processing executable instructions which captures at least all incoming text;

(e) providing a server application which is formed from data processing executable instructions and which is resident on a server which is remotely located from said monitored computers;

(f) providing at least one communication application in said client application;

(g) providing at least one communication application in said server application;

(h) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said capture module to capture in real time said all incoming text as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(i) for said plurality of monitored computers, automatically passing said digital content from said capture module to said search module in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(j) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said search module and said blacklist database in order to examine all textual components of said digital content on a word-by-word basis and to develop an overall appropriateness rating for each individual piece of digital content in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content, said overall appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which each individual piece of digital content is illicit; and

(k) utilizing said client application for recording and reporting said overall appropriateness rating in a predetermined manner; and

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(l) wherein recording said overall appropriateness rating comprises storing said overall appropriateness rating in memory on one of the plurality of monitored computers. ~~on a computer-readable medium.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a plurality of monitored computers each under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on each of said monitored computers;

(b) providing in said client application a content rating module which runs on said client application which is capable of generating an appropriateness rating for digital content received by each monitored computer, said appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which said digital content is illicit;

(c) providing a server application which is formed from data processing executable instructions and which is resident on a server which is remotely located from said monitored computers;

(d) providing at least one communication application in said client application;

(e) providing at least one communication application in said server application;

(f) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said client application to capture an internet address for content requested by each of said plurality of monitored computers in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(g) for said plurality of monitored computers, automatically utilizing said at least one communication application to communicate said internet address to server said as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(h) utilizing said communication application of said server to receive said internet address;

(i) utilizing said server application to determine whether or not content associated with said internet address has been rated previously based on the extent to which the content is illicit;

(j) if it is determined that said content associated with said internet address has been rated previously, communicating an associated rating to said client application;

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(k) if it is determined that said content associated with said internet address has not been rated previously, communicating this information to said client application;

(l) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said content rating module of said client application to develop an overall appropriateness rating for each individual piece of digital content, which has not been rated previously, in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content, said overall appropriateness rating being indicative of the extent to which each individual piece of digital content is illicit;

(m) utilizing said client application for recording and reporting said overall appropriateness rating to said server application in a predetermined manner;

(n) utilizing said server application to aggregate data to form a master content database with aggregated content ratings for a large number of internet sites; and

(o) wherein recording said overall appropriateness rating comprises storing said overall appropriateness rating in memory on one of the plurality of monitored computers. ~~on a computer-readable medium.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a plurality of monitored computers over a computer network, each under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on each of said monitored computers;

(b) providing in said client application modules for performing the following internet protection functions:

(1) content rating and content filtering;

(2) firewall functions including intrusion detection;

(3) popup control;

(4) anti-virus functions;

(5) instant message filtering;

(6) spam filtering; and

(7) accountability reporting;

(c) providing a server application which is formed from data processing executable instructions and which is resident on a server which is remotely located from said monitored computers;

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(d) providing at least one communication application in said client application;

(e) providing at least one communication application in said server application;

(f) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said client application to capture in real time all requests for data as said monitored user accesses digital content;

(g) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said at least one communication application of said client application to automatically pass information from said client application to said server in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(h) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said modules for intrusion protection functions in order to generate an approval or disapproval indication for each individual piece of digital content in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content, said approval or disapproval indication being determined at least in part by the extent to which each piece of digital content is illicit;

(i) utilizing said client application to block network communication for digital content with the disapproval indication and to permit network communication for digital content with the approval indication ~~for blocking or permitting further communication in a predetermined manner~~; and

~~(j) wherein steps (a)-(i) are performed over the computer network;~~.

(j) wherein said content rating and content filtering functions rate and filter based on the extent to which content is illicit.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a plurality of monitored computers over a computer network, each under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on each of said monitored computers;

(b) providing in said client application modules for performing content rating and content filtering, wherein said modules for performing content rating and content filtering operate based on the extent to which content is illicit;

(c) providing a server application which is formed from data processing executable instructions and which is resident on a server which is remotely located from said monitored computers;

(d) providing at least one communication application in said client application;

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(e) providing at least one communication application in said server application;

(f) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said client application to capture in real time all requests for data as said monitored user accesses digital content;

(g) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said at least one communication application of said client application to automatically pass information from said client application to said server in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(h) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said client application and said server in combination in order to generate an approval or disapproval indication for each individual piece of digital content in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content, said approval or disapproval indication being determined at least in part by the extent to which each piece of digital content is illicit and;

(i) utilizing said client application to block communication for digital content with the disapproval indication and to permit communication for digital content with the approval indication for blocking or permitting further communication in a predetermined manner; and

(j) wherein steps (a)-(i) are performed over the computer network.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the appropriateness of digital content received at a plurality of monitored computers over a computer network, each under the control of a monitored user, comprising:

(a) providing a client application which is formed from data processing executable instructions, which is resident on each of said monitored computers;

(b) providing in said client application modules for performing integrated intrusion protection;

(c) providing a server application which is formed from data processing executable instructions and which is resident on a server which is remotely located from said monitored computers;

(d) providing a cluster of servers;

(e) providing at least one communication application in said client application;

(f) providing at least one communication application in said server application;

(g) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said client application to capture in real time all requests for data as said monitored user accesses digital content;

(h) for said plurality of monitored computers, utilizing said at least one communication application of said client application to automatically pass information from said client application to said server application in real time as said monitored user accesses said digital content;

(i) utilizing said server application to determine automatically which particular one of said cluster of servers is best able to respond to a request for service; and

(j) allocating the request for service to the particular one of said cluster of servers that is best able to respond; and

(j) wherein steps (a)-(i) are performed over the computer network.

(k) wherein appropriateness is a measure of the extent to which digital content is illicit.